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DESMOND TUTU 7 OCTOBER 1931 • 26 DECEMBER 2021

ANTI-APARTHEID ICON DESMOND TUTU DIES

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's revered anti-apartheid icon who won the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the white minority government against the black majority in the country, died on Sunday. He was 90. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that Tutu passed away in Cape Town early on Sunday. He was the last surviving South African laureate of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize | PTI

Night curfew in Karnataka from Dec 28 to Jan 7

50% seating at hotels from Dec 30 to Jan 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE night curfew will be imposed in Karnataka from 10 pm to 5 am, starting from December 28, 2021 to January 7, 2022 to stop the spread of Omicron variant of Coronavirus.

Also, only 50 per cent seating will be allowed at pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels and clubs from December 30 to January 2, while strictly adhering to Covid-appropriate behaviour. All staff members should compulsorily possess Covid-negative RT-PCR report and must be fully vaccinated with both doses of the Covid vaccine.

The decision was taken at a meeting attended by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, other senior ministers, Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar, bureaucrats and members of the Covid Technical Advisory Committee on Sunday.

"At the meeting, preventive measures to combat Omicron, based on data from India and abroad, probable effects of this new variant, ramping up vaccination and preparedness were discussed. Around 3,191 ICU beds will be added to the existing 4,000-odd such beds in the state and the existing 30,000 oxygen beds will also be increased," said Sudhakar.

From December 28, the attendance at all gatherings, meetings, conferences and marriages should be limited to 300 people, said an order issued by the government. During these events, Covid-appropriate behaviour should be followed strictly and the responsibility falls on the event organisers.

There will be intensive patrolling and surveillance at all border districts adjoining Maharashtra and Kerala to prevent the spread of Covid, particularly the Omicron variant, in the state. The decision will be reviewed after 10 days of restrictions. MORE REPORTS: P3,10

RESTRICTIONS BACK

Night curfew in Karnataka from **10 pm to 5 am**, starting from December 28, 2021, to January 7, 2022

Only **50 per cent** seating capacity at pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels and clubs from December 30 to January 2

The number of participants at all gatherings, meetings, conferences and marriages will be limited to **300 people** from December 28

PANEL SET UP TO LIFT ARMED FORCES ACT IN NAGALAND

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE process to lift the draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from Nagaland began on Sunday with the Centre constituting a committee to look into the matter. This newspaper had on Saturday broken the news about the Centre exploring options to withdraw it from the state.

The AFSPA has never been lifted even partially from Nagaland. It was first imposed in 1958 in the Naga Hills when it was part of Assam, and from 1963 when it became a full-fledged state. Nagaland has on several occasions demanded its removal but without success because the Centre, under Article 371A, has overriding powers on the imposition of the AFSPA in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

It is in this context that the announcement to set up a committee to work out the modalities for the AFSPA's removal is significant. It signals a major shift in the Centre's position as it means that for the first time it has agreed to lift the hated law from Nagaland.

The committee will be headed by the Ministry of Home Affairs Additional Secretary-Northeast. It will have Nagaland Chief Secretary, Director-General of Police, Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) and a representative of CRPF as members. The committee will submit its report within 45 days. The withdrawal of the Disturbed Area notification and AFSPA will be based on the recommendations of the committee, a Nagaland government statement said.

The decision to constitute the panel was taken during Union Home Minister Amit Shah's December 23 meeting with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton and former chief minister TR Zeliang in New Delhi.

It comes against the backdrop of the killings of civilians by the Army in a botched ambush at Oting in Nagaland's Mon district on December 4. A Court of Enquiry would initiate disciplinary proceedings against the Army unit and personnel directly involved in the Oting incident and action would be taken after a "fair inquiry", the state government said. Those facing probe will be placed under suspension, it added.

Govt jobs to next of kin

Nagaland would provide government jobs to the next of kin of those killed in the botched ambush at Oting in Mon district. The Nagaland delegation urged Shah to replace the Assam Rifles unit stationed in Mon immediately

Hate crime against Christmas in Ambala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh, Guwahati

A torn down Jesus Christ statue at a church in Ambala Cantonment in Haryana on Saturday night was part of the spate of hate crimes targeting Christmas festivities across the country since Friday.

Around 1:30 am on Sunday, a statue of Jesus Christ at the entrance gate of the British-Era Holy Redeemer Church in Ambala Cantonment was torn down by two unidentified miscreants, sources said, adding the police have CCTV footage. "A case for hurting religious sentiments and house trespass has been registered," said Anil Kumar, Station House Officer, Ambala Cantonment Police Station. The Additional Superintendent of Police of Ambala, Pooja Dabla, said that a team is probing the act of vandalism.

At a church in Pataudi, Gurugram, Christmas Eve prayers and carols on Friday evening were disrupted by a group of right-wing activists shouting "Jai Shree Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai". The activists pushed the choir off the stage, took hold of the mic and made people chant "Jai Shree Ram". CONTINUED ON: P10

CENTURION

KL Rahul hit his seventh Test century (122 batting) on Day 1 of the first Test against South Africa in Centurion as India were placed 272/3 at stumps | AFP | P13

	DEC 25	
Fresh cases	7,189	6,987
Recoveries	7,288	7,091
Deaths	387	162

	DEC 25	
Fresh cases	270	348
Recoveries	246	198
Deaths	4	3

Egg, milk, banana up nutrition in children

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

WHILE there is a raging debate over providing eggs to school-going children in mid-day meals, the consumption of egg, milk and banana has improved the nutrition level of malnourished children from six months to six years enrolled in Anganwadis in five districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region, shows surveys conducted by the Women and Children Welfare Department in September and November.

Highly-placed sources from the Department told TNIE, "After coming to know that the nutritional level among children enrolled in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal districts of Kalyana Karnataka region is low compared to other districts of Karnataka, the department conducted a survey in September to find out the number of normal children, children with moderate malnourishment and those with severe malnutrition in the age group of six months to six years in Anganwadis by weighing them." P7